

Call for Papers

ABWH Symposium | December 7 - 8, 2018 | Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

Our Foremothers' Keepers: The Art and Practice of Black Women's History

In anticipation of its Ruby Anniversary, the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH) is pleased to invite panel and paper proposal submissions for its national symposium **Our Foremothers' Keepers: The Art and Practice of Black Women's History**. The symposium will be held Friday and Saturday, December 7-8, 2018, on the campus of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. In the forty years since a small group of women first met to form a professional network of Black women historians, the field of Black women's history has exploded. "Our Foremothers' Keepers" will explore the achievements and challenges that drive the field of Black women's history. It will also reflect on the future direction of research on Black Women's Studies within the United States and African Diaspora.

Our goals are multifaceted:

- ★ to assess the field
- ★ to highlight cutting-edge research
- ★ to promote dialog and generative feedback, and
- ★ to explore ways to navigate successfully the academic terrain.

Friday will feature scholarly presentations (a keynote plenary and concurrent panels and roundtables). Saturday will feature a special Graduate Student Session and workshops focused on professional development, life/work balance, and self care. Graduate students; early-career (within three years of the Ph.D.), junior, senior, and emerita scholars; and educators, independent scholars, public historians, librarians, and archivists are welcome to participate.

Scholarly Presentations

The scholarly presentations will depart slightly from the typical conference format. Presenters will discuss their research and findings as in formal panel presentations, but they are also asked to highlight larger questions and issues around their subjects, methodological approaches, and/or sources. In addition to a standard question-and-answer period, each panel will also feature short, moderated breakout sessions among the audience members for in-depth discussion of compelling aspects of the presenters' research questions, sources, and/or methods.

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Proposals are welcome in any time period or geographical location in five main subject areas. Suggested panel themes in each subject area include, but are not limited to, the following:

Protest, Liberation, and Revolution: Chronicling Black Women’s Activism

Citizenship, rights, and the law
Social, economic, and political justice
Labor
Consumption
Informal economies and histories/critiques of capitalism/political economy

Moving Beyond the Pleasure and Pain Binary: Engaging the Black Female Body

Queer and Trans* Studies
Critical Disability Studies
Science and medicine
Carceral state, policing, and public order/disorder
Sex, erotics, and intimacy

Appropriations, Representations, and Black Women’s Expressive Cultures

Language, symbols, sounds, and radical etymologies
Constructions of performance
Cinema studies
Foodways
Nationalistic discourses, practices, and policies

The Challenge of the Archive

Memory studies, memorialization, and heritage studies
Curatorial, political, and financial complexities in communicating history and culture
Oral history and other methodologies
Rites and rituals
Digital Black Studies

Technology, Material Culture, and the Environment

Science, technology, and medicine
Materialities
Ecology, the environment, and climate change

Special Graduate Student Session

Graduate students are invited to submit proposals to the special Saturday morning forum set aside exclusively for graduate student presentations; *you do not need to choose a specific topic area*. We seek proposals for innovative presentations in a wide variety of formats, including but not limited to: SGIS presentations; art, material culture, and/or digital exhibitions; spoken word; posters; and film shorts, as well as traditional papers. Each presentation is limited to no more than TEN MINUTES. Thus, the forum will allow students to present their work in a flexible format while fostering collective conversations to facilitate further research. More important, the forum will encourage graduate students to share their work with peers and established scholars and provide an opportunity to create a professional mentoring network.

How to Submit a Proposal

Submit your paper, panel, and/or roundtable proposal/abstract using the form at <https://tinyurl.com/ABWHProposals> by **August 1**:

- ★ single paper or Grad Student Session proposal (max. 250 words)
- ★ full panel (max. 500 words)
- ★ roundtable (max. 250 words)

Please note:

- ★ **Submit a paper or panel proposal to only one subject area.** While papers and panels may cross various topics, please choose one main area that best describes your paper or panel. (You do not have to choose a topic area for the Special Grad Student Session.)
- ★ **An individual may appear only once in the program in any role.** The roles are chair, commenter, or presenter.
- ★ **Graduate students may also propose a paper, panel, or roundtable for the Friday program.** Graduate students are not limited to proposals for the Graduate Student Session, but they cannot appear on the program in more than one panel, session, or roundtable.

Submit your individual paper, Special Grad Student Session item, panel, and/or roundtable proposal/abstract using the form at <https://tinyurl.com/ABWHProposals> by **August 1**. Selected participants will be contacted by August 30. All participants must be or become members of the ABWH before conference registration. (The ABWH membership year runs October 1 to September 30.) Selected presenters must confirm attendance and pay conference registration on or before October 1. The preliminary conference schedule will be announced and registration will begin in October. Due to the size of the venue, registration for the conference will be limited so you are encouraged to register early.

Questions?

Check for updated conference details on the ABWH site at truth.abwh.org, ABWH's Facebook page, and Twitter (@ABWHTruth and #ABWH2018). For questions, please email the Program Committee Chair Shennette Garrett-Scott at ABWHSymposium@gmail.com. (Please do not email proposals to the email address; use the link to the form above.)



Association of Black Women Historians
P. O. Box 35767
Los Angeles, CA 90035-0767

General Email: info@abwh.org